

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 180727Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3659
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
ALL NATO CAPITALS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 03535

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC
SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, MAY 17, 1977: AGENDA
ITEM I, STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROGROUP
THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT TO THE DPC IN
MINISTERIAL SESSION BY MR. MOELLER, THE DANISH MINISTER OF
DEFENSE, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE
EUROGROUP. THE RESULTS OF YESTERDAY'S EUROGROUP MEETING
APPARENTLY WERE ALONG THE LINES EXPECTED. WE WILL REPORT
FURTHER DETAILS ON THE MEETING AFTER DEBRIEFING BY DANISH
PERMREP (SVART) WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE LATER THIS
WEEK OR NEXT.
BEGIN TEXT:

1. IT GIVES ME MUCH PLEASURE AS CHAIRMAN OF EUROGROUP THIS
YEAR TO INFORM THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE OUT-
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COME OF OUR MEETING HERE AT NATO HEADQUARTERS YESTERDAY.
2. FIRST I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY THANKS ON BEHALF OF
THE EUROGROUP FOR ALL THE ASSISTANCE WHICH YOU AND THE
STAFF OF NATO HAVE PROVIDED TO HELP MAKE OUR MEETING A
SUCCESS.
3. I RECALL YOUR STATEMENT LAST DECEMBER, MR CHAIRMAN, IN
WHICH YOU PAID TRIBUTE TO EUROGROUP AND REAFFIRMED YOUR

SUPPORT FOR ITS WORK. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING TO ME AS THE CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE AND I EMBARKED UPON MY TASK WITH ALL THE MORE CONFIDENCE.

4. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT EUROGROUP EXISTS AND OPERATES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATO. ITS OBJECTIVE, AS WE ALL KNOW, IS TO ENSURE A STRONGER AND MORE COHESIVE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMON DEFENCE AND THUS TO ADD TO THE STRENGTH AND STABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE. THIS WAS THE SPIRIT IN WHICH WE ASSEMBLED YESTERDAY. YOU AND OUR COLLEAGUES ROUND THIS TABLE WILL PROBABLY HAVE SEEN THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS ISSUED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AFTER OUR MEETING. MY PURPOSE TODAY IS TO ENLARGE UPON IT AND TO TRY TO GIVE YOU A BROAD IMPRESSION OF THE GENERAL OUT-LINE OF OUR DISCUSSION.

5. AS USUAL WE CONCENTRATED ON TWO MAIN THEMES: PRACTICAL COOPERATION AND POLITICAL TRENDS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THEIR EFFECT ON THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. REGARDING THE FORMER, WE REVIEWED THE WORK OF THE SEVEN TECHNICAL SUB-GROUPS OF EUROGROUP WHICH ARE SEEKING PRACTICAL WAYS AND MEANS OF INCREASING COOPERATION IN A RANGE OF FIELDS. THEIR TASK IS NOT AN EASY ONE AND BY ITS VERY NATURE DOES NOT ALWAYS LEND ITSELF TO SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENTS; BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN CLAIM SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRESS SINCE OUR LAST MEETING. WORK IS CONTINUING IN SUCH FIELDS AS LOGISTICS, MEDICAL RATIONALISATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND TRAINING. IT IS NOT MY PURPOSE TO GO INTO GREAT DETAIL BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO

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DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING PARTICULAR POINTS:

- NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE FOUR EUROPEAN NATIONS TAKING PART IN THE F16 FIGHTER PROJECT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED AND THE FINAL CONTRACTS FOR THE PROCUREMENT WERE SIGNED 2 WEEKS AGO.
- WE UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED YESTERDAY THE EUROLONGTERM OUTLINE STAFF TARGET FOR A CONVENTIONALLY LAID MINEFIELD SYSTEM. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE A CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.
- NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE PROJECT FOR THE JOINT PROCUREMENT IN EUROPE OF THE IMPROVED SIDEWINDER AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE ARE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY.
- WE HEARD ENCOURAGING REPORTS ABOUT MULTINATIONAL HELICOPTER TRAINING COURSES AND WERE GLAD TO NOTE THAT THE JOINT PILOT COURSE ON LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE THIS SUMMER. OTHER PROJECTS ARE IN PROSPECT.

WE ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO EFFORTS TO RATION-
ALISE TRAINING BECAUSE OF THE VARYING INCREASES IN COSTS
ABOUT WHICH MANY EUROGROUP MEMBERS EXPRESSED CONCERN.

6. MR CHAIRMAN, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAIN-
TAIN PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DEFENCE EFFORT OF NATO AND
OR THE THREAT WHICH WE FACE. WE AGREE ON THE NEED - AS
ALSO REFLECTED IN DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE - FOR MORE
DETAILED AND COORDINATED INFORMATION. DETAILED BECAUSE
THE REQUISITE FACTUAL DATA IS NECESSARY TO PRESENT AN
EFFECTIVE CASE; COORDINATED BECAUSE IT IS CLEARLY DESIR-

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ABLE TO AVOID DISCREPANCIES WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE UNDER-
MINE ITS CREDIBILITY. WE WELCOME THE POSITIVE STEPS WHICH
HAVE BEEN TAKEN SO FAR TO TACKLE THIS PROBLEM. IT IS OF
COURSE UP TO EACH OF US TO DECIDE HOW WE PRESENT THE
SITUATION TO OUR COUNTRYMEN, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE
RELEVANT ALLIANCE AUTHORITIES SHOULD GIVE CLOSE CONSIDERA-
TION TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A REGULARLY
UPDATED POOL OF NATO-AGREED DATA BOTH ON THE WARSAW PACT
AND ALSO ON THE ALLIANCE CAPABILITIES WHICH WOULD NOT BE
PUBLISHED AS SUCH BUT ON WHICH WE COULD DRAW. I MAY ADD
HERE THAT WE OURSELVES PLAN TO CONTINUE TO EXPLAIN AND TO

STRESS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO THE CONTINUING VITALITY OF OUR COLLECTIVE DEFENCE EFFORTS AND THE PART WHICH THE EUROPEAN ALLIES PLAY.

7. THE EUROGROUP CAN CLAIM A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE
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FORMATION OF THE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAMME GROUP.
WE GREATLY WELCOME ITS ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR FOR THE
BENEFIT OF BOTH EUROPE AND THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE.

8. I SHOULD NOT CLOSE, MR CHAIRMAN, WITHOUT A REFERENCE TO LAST WEEK'S NATO SUMMIT. NO DOUBT WE SHALL HEAR MORE OF IT TODAY; BUT FOR MY PART I BELIEVE I CAN SAY ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES THAT WE MEMBERS OF EUROGROUP WELCOMED THE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION IN WHICH THE SUMMIT ADDRESSED THE PROBLEMS FACING THE ALLIANCE TODAY. ITS IMPACT WILL BE FELT FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. IT WILL BE OUR TASK TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGE IT HAS ISSUED. I FEEL SURE, MR CHAIRMAN, THAT UNDER YOUR WISE GUIDANCE WE SHALL NOT BE FOUND WANTING.

9. ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES, MR CHAIRMAN, I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY OF INFORMING THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROGROUP.

THANK YOU MR CHAIRMAN. END TEXT.BENNETT

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